

by Great Britain, and was honored with the Order of the Sacred Tripod and the Special Order of Pao Ting from China. The General was also praised by President Harry Truman for his handling of surplus war equipment still in China after the war.

President Truman was not the first U.S. President to notice General Olmsted's abilities. President Herbert Hoover noticed General Olmsted's abilities even as a young man, inviting him to the White House and asking him to direct the activities of the Young Republican Division of the party in the 1932 election. General Olmsted continued to be involved in politics and even attempted a run once for Governor of Iowa.

From a young age, Olmsted showed his leadership abilities as a cadet at West Point. He was President of his class, ranked second in his class academically, was the feather-weight boxing champ of the Academy and second-string quarterback for the Army football team.

In later years, he did not forget his allegiance to West Point or his tenacity for learning. In 1959, he and his wife Carole established a foundation whose principal activity is The Olmstead Scholar Program.

As a member of the Naval Academy's Board of Visitors, I am proud to say that this program has made financial grants available to hundreds of graduates from three service academies and the ROTC. The graduates enroll as full-time resident students at a foreign university of their choice. They must conduct all their studies in the language of that country and are expected to travel extensively throughout the region to learn as much as they can about the local customs and history of the people there.

Since its founding, 293 officers have been selected as Olmsted Scholars, including one former Chief of Naval Operations. These scholars have attended over 100 different universities located in 37 countries.

General Olmsted was the American success story. He worked hard, enjoyed tremendous success, and shared his good fortune with others. His accomplishments are ones of which Americans can be proud and his patriotism should be an example to our children.

THE CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFERY MEDICARE SERVICES ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce "The Certified Nurse Midwifery Medicare Services Act". This legislation will correct several inequities in the nurse-midwives' ability to provide health care services to Medicare recipients. This bill specifically increases the reimbursement rate to 95 percent of physician payment as well as permitting free-standing birth centers to receive Medicare reimbursement.

Currently, under the Medicare program, nurse-midwives are reimbursed for only 65 percent of physician's payment for providing the same services. Fifty-six percent of women who are cared for by CNMs live in areas that are designated as underserved, within inner city or rural areas. In fact, 70 percent of women and newborns seen by nurse-midwives are considered vulnerable by virtue of age, socioeconomic status, education, ethnicity, or place of residence. As of 1996, over 50,000 women, in the Medicare program, had a primary diagnosis related to "pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium". While Medicare has provided for coverage of the professional services of CNMs since July 1, 1988, the low 65 percent reimbursement rate results in payments of \$800 to \$1,200 for nine to ten months of care for pregnancy, including deliveries. At this level, nurse-midwives can not afford to serve the Medicare population, a population which is clearly increasingly in need of access to health care providers.

The second major inequity corrected by this bill would allow free standing birth centers to be reimbursed. Currently, the Medicare program does not recognize free-standing birth centers. Birth centers have a 20 year history of providing quality services with excellent outcomes for mothers and babies. In fact, the first urban birth center was established in New York City in 1975. The excellent quality of care with great savings has been demonstrated in many research studies. The most recent data released by the Health Insurance Association of America and the National Association of Childbearing Centers showed that in 1995 there was a cost savings of over \$3,000 per birth when comparing a birth center to a hospital birth. Medicare can realize consider-

able savings and improved outcomes for disabled women and their infants who use nurse-midwives and birth centers.

Mr. Chairman, while this legislation is being introduced in the last days of the 105th Congress, I am confident that this measure will receive serious consideration in the next Congress. We must continue to work to increase access to health care for underserved populations. All too often chronically disabled women have specialists as their primary care providers who neglect their obstetrical and gynecological needs. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve the payment restrictions on access to nurse-midwifery services for Medicare recipients.

LET'S REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS
AT GPO AS WE LEAVE FOR OUR
DISTRICTS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, as we close the 2nd Session of the 105th Congress, our ability to come to an orderly close is due, in great part, to the tireless efforts of our friends in the U.S. Government Printing Office.

The GPO recently performed a yeoman's task by printing all of the Kenneth Starr reports that were sent to them by the House Judiciary Committee. These massive reports were printed with great speed and professionalism.

Now, as we draw our Session to a close, these dedicated government employees are called on to print an incredible-sized piece of legislation, in addition to reprinting it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, plus putting it online—and all with around-the-clock work schedules.

For over 137 years, the GPO has been a loyal, dedicated partner of the Congress.

Its critics have taken easy pot-shots at this valuable agency, but they have never provided any reliable means of producing congressional products that are as dependable as those from GPO.

As we leave Washington to return to our congressional districts, I would like to salute the men and women at the U.S. Government Printing Office for their steadfast efforts to make the operations of Congress run smoothly.